Survey No. <i>HA-1962</i>				
Magi No.				
DOEyes	no			

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

1. Name				
Historic Name N	lagazine Storage District			
Common Name and	Building Numbers Building I	E1936; E1946; E1958		
2. Location	7-40-			
Street and Number	Aberdeen Proving Gro	und - Edgewood Area	÷	
City, Town Aberdeen		Congressional District		
State and Zip Code	MD 21005		County Harford	
3. Classificati	on			
Category District X Building(s) Structure Site Dbject	Ownership  X Public Private Both  Public Acquisition In Process Being Considered Not Applicable	X Occupied Unoccupied Work in Progress  Accessible Yes: Restricted Yes: Unrestricted	Entertainment Government Industrial	Museum Park Private Residence Religious Scientific Transportation Other: Storage
4. Owner of P	roperty		484.	
Name U.S. Art	my Aberdeen Proving Gr	ound Support Activity	(STEAHP-DIC)	
Street & Number	Building 310		Telephone No.: (410) 278-675	5
City, Town Aber	deen Proving Ground		State and Zip Code MD 21005	-5001
5. Location of	Legal Description			
Courthouse, Registry	of Deeds, etc. Harford Cou	nty Courthouse, Land R	Records Liber# Folio#	
Street & Number 1	Main Street			
City, Town Bel A	Air		State and Zip Code MD 21014	
6. Representat	ion in Existing Historic	Survey		Yes No
litle				
Date			Federal State County	Local
Depository for Survey	Records			
City, Town			State and Zip	

7. Description	n			Survey No.
Condition Excellent X Good Fair	Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed	Unaltered Altered	X Original Site Moved	
SEE CONTII	NUATION SHEETS			
8. Significan	ıce			Survey No.
8. Significan  Period Prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X 1900-	Areas of Significance Archeology-Prehistoric Archeology-Historic Agriculture Architecture Art Commerce Communications	Community Planning Conservation Economics Education Engineering Exploration/Settlement Industry Invention	Eandscape Architecture Law Literature X Military Music Philosophy Politics/Government	Religion Science Sculpture Social/Humanit Theater Transportation X Other: Storage

\_\_Local

\_c

\_\_State

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

X\_National

Applicable Exception

Level of Significance

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### <u>Overview</u>

The 1918 magazine storage district at Edgewood represents some of the earlier military construction at the site, and most of the site's only remaining ordnance storage buildings from World War 1. Located north of the original industrial area of Edgewood, this warehouse cluster was originally dominated by eleven above-ground ammunition magazines; five of these remain today (E1930, E1932, E1942, E1950, and E1958). The area also encompasses Building E1890, possibly the oldest storage building at the Edgewood Arsenal, constructed in 1918 for the storage of empty shells; and E1946, an administration building constructed in the midst of this 1918 warehouse district in 1924. These buildings provided necessary support facilities for the main industrial function of Edgewood Arsenal, that of manufacturing chemicals and preparing chemical projectiles for use overseas. As part of the Eastern Chemical Depot, they housed the finished chemical munitions for the first two decades of Edgewood's operation. During later years, they provided an administrative and training center for the Depot, as well as serving as general storage buildings.

### Individual Building Descriptions

Three buildings within this World War I warehouse cluster were included in the current survey and evaluation project.

### E1936 Storehouse (1918)

Built in 1918, this small-scale storehouse building is one of few resources dating to the establishment of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood facility. It is a one-story rectangular building with white painted, structural-clay-tile walls and an overhanging asphalt shingle gable roof. The roof has three mushroom-cap ventilation stacks running the length of the gable. At the south gable end there is a ventilation louver in the gable, and a large wood-door loading bay. The longer side walls are three bays across, with square windows of 12 panes each. The windows have brick surrounds and wire glass; the windows along the west facade have been boarded over.

Building E1936 was erected as a flammable material storehouse, a use to which it is still dedicated today. As the only flammable material warehouse in the grouping, E1936 was set apart slightly from the other warehouses, which were constructed contemporaneously, and is much smaller in scale.

### E1946 Administration Building (1924)

Building E1946 was constructed during the quiet interwar years at Edgewood Arsenal. Designed as the administrative center for the newly established Eastern Chemical Depot, the building was placed in the midst of the 1918 magazine storage district north of the central industrial area of the post.

Similar to the other structures in the vicinity, Building E1946 is a one-story, cinderblock structure. Originally totalling 1,997 square feet, the building when first erected was much smaller in dimension than the large monitor-roof warehouses built during World War I. As America entered World War II,

Section 7 Page 2

production and activity at Edgewood greatly increased. The administration building was enlarged by 204 square feet in 1941 and again in 1942 by nearly 2000 square feet to provide additional office space.

The building has a side-gabled roof. The central gabled entrance bay projects forward in a pedimented porch, supported by a pair of four clustered columns. The simple, multipane windows are unadomed with the exception of a lower sill. In the central bay of the rear facade, the windows are paired; elsewhere in the building, they are single windows. Along the eastern end of the building the multipane windows are evenly spaced. At the western end, they are more irregularly spaced.

### E1958 Warehouse (1918)

E1958 is one of the remaining warehouses of a grouping which was originally comprised of eleven above-ground ammunition magazines. In the original design, these warehouses were located in four rows, spaced 100 feet apart and linked through railroad lines. The warehouses today number five. Built in 1918, E1958 and its remaining counterparts represent some of the earliest construction at the Edgewood Arsenal.

In this grouping, each warehouse measured approximately 100' x 202' and was constructed of structural clay tile with a monitor roof. Originally built to house chemical munitions, they are today classified as general purpose warehouses. They were built 100 feet apart, each row with standard-gauge track on the south side and 36-inch gauge track on the north side. The elevations of the floors of each warehouse were different, in order to conform best with the natural slope of the ground. Originally, all the magazines had concrete platforms running the full length of the building; three of the warehouses also had concrete platforms on the south sides as well. The others had wooden platforms on the south side. There were no windows in the original design, except for those located in the monitor roof.

Building E1958 was completed on December 7, 1918, at a cost of \$41,206.66. It has a rectangular footprint. Built on a concrete foundation, the building consists of eight-inch-terracotta structural tiles, stamped with "Minerva, Ohio Metropolitan" company labels. They are buff earth tones, and have been painted white on the exterior. The building has a steel-truss roof supported by H beams. It is ten bays long, and two bays wide, with each bay having a wood door on a sliding track bolted to the tile wall. Building E1958 has its original sliding wood double doors on the end bays. Extending above the first floor is the monitor roof, which today has green fiberglass panels running the length of it. Four feet up the wall are the original movable louvers, made of galvanized iron. Inside, the plan is most likely open.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, "Support and Utility Structures and Facilities," p. A-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Survey description from Building Files, Office of the Command Historian, Edgewood, and from on-site observation by Robinson & Associates, Inc., Summer 1995. The interior of Building E1932, not E1958, was viewed.



Section 8 Page 1

### **Overview**

The 1918 magazine storage district located north of the main industrial center of Edgewood Arsenal, which encompasses a series of warehouses and an administrative building, represents some of the earliest build-up of the site. The concrete-block warehouses, which stored the finished chemical munitions, served an important support function in the process of chemical warfare production being undertaken at Edgewood. For the first dozen years of the site's operation, these buildings provided the only permanent ordnance storage for the Edgewood Arsenal. In 1924, the administration building was erected in the center of the warehouse grouping; it provided office quarters for the work of the Eastern Chemical Depot, which was designated at Edgewood following World War I. As the country was drawn into World War II, this storage area was supplanted by other, more isolated, warehouse clusters. The buildings then served more as an administrative center and general purpose warehouse area, housing important nonexplosive items such as gas masks, empty drums, and dugout blankets. Some of these warehouses were used as the center of a training program in the handling of munitions and inspection procedures. Building E1958, in particular, was transformed into a museum of the Chemical Corps.

The Edgewood Arsenal was established in 1918 for the purpose of producing, assembling, storing, and shipping chemical weapons. Located on Gunpowder Neck, a peninsula created by the Bush and Gunpowder rivers, the land was approved by President Woodrow Wilson for government use. The great mobilization of the nation's resources for World War I had actually reached Gunpowder Neck the prior year in the fall of 1917. Congress authorized the acquisition of large tracts of land along the shoreline of Harford County for the purposes of establishing a large ordnance proving ground -- which became known as the Aberdeen Proving Ground.<sup>1</sup>

The buildings at Edgewood were for the most part permanent ones, due to the dangers inherent in the production. Following World War I, the site became the headquarters of the Chemical Warfare Service, including a school which trained Army and Navy personnel. Energy was directed towards research and peacetime uses for chemicals. Since its establishment, the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground has remained the center of the Army's chemical research program.<sup>2</sup>

### World War I

In 1918 the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS), responsible for all facilities and functions relating to toxic chemicals, was officially established by the War Department. All major countries involved in World War I were already using chemical warfare by the time that the United States entered the war

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The government's facilities for testing weaponry prior to the establishment of Aberdeen Proving Ground were located at Sandy Hook Proving Ground in New Jersey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Mariani & Associates Architects with Robinson & Associates, Inc. (dba Traceries). "Department of Army: Study/Survey of Historically Significant Army Family Housing Quarters," September 1988, p. 16.

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in 1917. The United States government had little or no experience with chemical warfare, no training, and no equipment. The primary function of the Arsenal was to be the production of chemicals and the loading of them into shells. With little interest shown by commercial manufacturers in the production of chemical warfare components, the government elected to erect its own chemical production plant. Despite a lack of knowledge on the subject, by the conclusion of the war the United States had become a leader in the field of chemical warfare. Within one year, four major plants had been constructed, creating the largest chemical production facility in the United States and the only one to produce all four chemicals used during the war.

At the recently established Edgewood Arsenal, three shell filling plants and four chemical production facilities -- for chlorine, phosgene, chloropicrin, and mustard gas -- had been constructed during 1917-18. Chloropicrin, a lethal tearing agent, and mustard gas, a blistering agent, were both in production by June 1918. Phosgene, a lethal choking agent that was responsible for eight of every ten chemically-caused deaths during the war, was in production a month later. Although chlorine was already produced by the private sector before the war, it was not being generated in adequate quantities; the production of chlorine at Edgewood was begun two months before the end of the war.<sup>3</sup>

## Early Role of the Magazine Storage District in Chemical Production

This grouping of permanent warehouses constituted a part of the original conception of the U.S. Filling Plant, as Edgewood Arsenal was first known. In June of 1917, an experimental filling plant for gas-shells was proposed; it fell under the Ordnance Department, until the Chemical Warfare Service was established in June 1918. The original elements of construction that were identified included: filling plants, chemical plants, a chlorine plant, an additional power installation, cantonments, a hospital, and storehouses. The plan also proposed a gas-shell proving ground with a laboratory and animal farm.

The grouping which encompasses buildings E1936 and E1958 would have been a part of this chain of operation. Started in June 1918, when the chemical production was begun, these buildings were all finished around the time the war was ending. The complex included at that time a range of storage facilities, from an inflammable materials warehouse (E1936) to a shell storage building (E1890), to a group of eleven structural clay tile magazines, used to house the filled shells prior to shipment overseas.

The magazines, which included E1958, were constructed in four rows, spaced 100 feet apart from one another, and supplied with concrete platforms for loading and unloading from the railroad tracks that lined the north sides of each building. Distinguished by monitor roofs, these one-story buildings had multiple loading bays, but no windows.

Even though these warehouses were designed as ordnance storage, they could not prevent the hazards that came with chemical storage. The stores of phosphorous housed in Building E1942 repeatedly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Keir Sterling, "Aberdeen Proving Ground: The Early Years," p. 67.

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caught on fire in 1919, requiring a guard force of eight men day and night.4

### Between the Wars

In June 1920, a new National Defense Act declared the CWS a permanent part of the Regular Army. Its mission included development, procurement, and supply of all offensive and defensive chemical warfare materials. In addition the CWS was responsible for training the Army in chemical warfare and for organizing, equipping, training, and employing special chemical troops. Edgewood Arsenal remained active as the peacetime center of CWS field activities.

Despite the encouragement of permanent status, the years after 1920 were lean ones for the CWS and Edgewood Arsenal, and for the Army as a whole. The Great Depression of the 1930s further limited the government's expenditures for military purposes, although the CWS did not experience major cutbacks at this time. Edgewood Arsenal in the 1920s and 1930s was a quiet place compared with the booming chemical center of 1918. Its chemical plants remained shut down and gradually fell into disrepair. The most important work at Edgewood became that of storage. In 1921, Edgewood was designated the Edgewood Chemical Warfare Reserve Depot (changed in 1927 to the Edgewood Chemical Warfare Depot, and in 1943 to the Eastern Chemical Warfare Depot). Charged with storing and issuing supplies, the Depot would later, at the start of American involvement in World War II, play an important role in ensuring that all ports, camps, and stations received supplies. An administration building (Building E1946) was erected in 1924 in the midst of the magazine grouping to serve as the Headquarters of the Depot.

During these interwar years, the group of eleven warehouses was being used to store shells as well as other more general materials. In 1935, Building E1958 contained approximately 67,750 war reserve gas masks, in addition to parts for some 30,000 gas masks. It also housed horse masks, trench fans, miscellaneous horns, pigeon bags, dugout blankets, MII canisters, caustic soda, mittens, police rattles, signs, and trench sprayers. There was great concern over the danger of losing the reserve collection of gas masks in the event of a fire at one of the shell storage buildings.<sup>5</sup> It was not until the next war in Europe that this precarious situation was alleviated.<sup>6</sup>

The Depot also became the first chemical warfare organization to hydrostatically test one-ton containers, which were used to store mustard gas and phosgene, and the first to decontaminate these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>"Chemical Warfare," Vol. 1, No. 2, Thursday, August 28, 1919. Building Files, Office of the Command Historian, Edgewood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Part of Building E1890, located only 800 feet away from Building E1958, was at the time being used for the storage of shells and bombs filled with white phosphorus. Building Files, Office of the Command Historian, Edgewood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A June 3, 1940 memorandum specified that most CWS property was to be removed from the warehouses, in preparation for a new assembly plant and magazines which were to be constructed. Building Files, Office of the Command Historian, Edgewood.

712- 96 Ex

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form Continuation Sheet. Section 8: Significance Magazine Storage District, Buildings E1932-58 Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

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containers.

#### World War II

The outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 stimulated a major increase in production of American armament. Edgewood Arsenal soon operated at a pace approaching that of 1918. The Arsenal added new buildings, roads, and rail connections. In addition to a modern two-story laboratory research center on post, the CWS also built two large warehouse complexes for the storage of toxic materiel. [See MHT Form on Building E2206.] The construction of these modern, terracotta tile magazines, located in more isolated areas of the post, enabled the centrally located cluster of warehouses which included E1958 to be turned over to other uses. The headquarters of the Depot, as this grouping came to be known, stored inert materials. It was also used as an administrative area; the increased activity necessitated additional construction to accommodate the growing staff.

At the time of American entry into World War II, the administration building (E1946) proved wholly inadequate. The building contained only two rooms to house personnel in shipping and receiving activities. During the summer of 1942, the Depot headquarter's floorspace was increased. This expansion provided more office space considered "essential for the housing of additional clerical personnel required to facilitate expeditious handling of additional work-load incident to the rapidly expanding war mission of supply." Warehouse E1942, which had housed nonexplosive materials such as gas masks and field desks during the interwar years, also had temporary offices installed in its interior during 1942; and a year later, in 1943, a packing room was added as well.

The Depot's increase in activity during the war years is quickly evident in comparing figures with 1930. During the entire year of 1930, there were 802 outgoing shipments of 548,17 tons from Edgewood and 426 incoming shipments totalling 685 tons. In one typical month during 1942 (July), there were 4,543.6 tons of incoming material and 6,317.6 outgoing tons. This level of activity continued through 1945; during April 1945, there were 5,707 tons of incoming material and 4,776 outgoing tons. As the oldest depot in the system, Edgewood was an important resource of experienced personnel.

### Post War

After the war, in 1946, the Eastern Chemical Depot was reclassified as a Class II installation; its use as a separate entity was discontinued, as it was designated an activity of the Army Chemical Center. The plants were placed in standby, ending all production. The mission of the Depot then became to receive and store CWS general supplies, ammunition, and hazardous material. These items were stored for distribution to installations located within the Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. area, for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>George W. Scaggs, *History of the Eastern Chemical Warfare Depot*, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, June 30, 1945. p. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Scaggs, History of Eastern Chemical Depot, p. 174.



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shipment overseas, and as reserve for future distribution as might be needed.

By the mid 1950s, the Headquarters area was the site of training units. These units were instructed on how to handle munitions and equipment, and on procedures of surveillance and inspection. In the late 1950s, Building E1958 was turned over for use as a museum. The exhibition housed within was designed to provide a portrait of the Chemical Corps and their role in the national defense. Equally important, the museum was also meant to serve as a source of technical information for personnel.

#### SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

# 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The warehouse district is bordered on the north by Depot Road and on the east by Scully Road. The southern boundary of the proposed district follows Schaeffer Road from the intersection of Scully and Schaeffer to a point before Building E1958 The southern boundary encloses E1958, crossing Wise Road in order also to include Building E1890. The westernmost boundary of the proposed district runs along the rear elevation of Building E1890.

11. Form Prepared by			
Name/Title Heather Ewing and Judith Robinson, Architectural Historians			
Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc.	0ate March 20, 1996		
Street & Number 1909 Q Street, NW #300	Telephone 202/234-2333		
City or Town Washington, D.C.	State 20009		
Concurrence of State Preservation Officer			

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCP/DHCD

100 Community Place

Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

(410) 514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form Continuation Sheet. Section 9: Bibliography Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

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4 Ply Pitch & Slag on Gypsom Tile Poof

Tile Walls

Single Stiding Door

g"U Frame

END ELEVATION

Building Plans for Magazine Storage District (1918) Headquarters, Eastern Chemical Depot Edgewood Arsenal

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD HA-1862

Dornspout carried within 350 of grade—

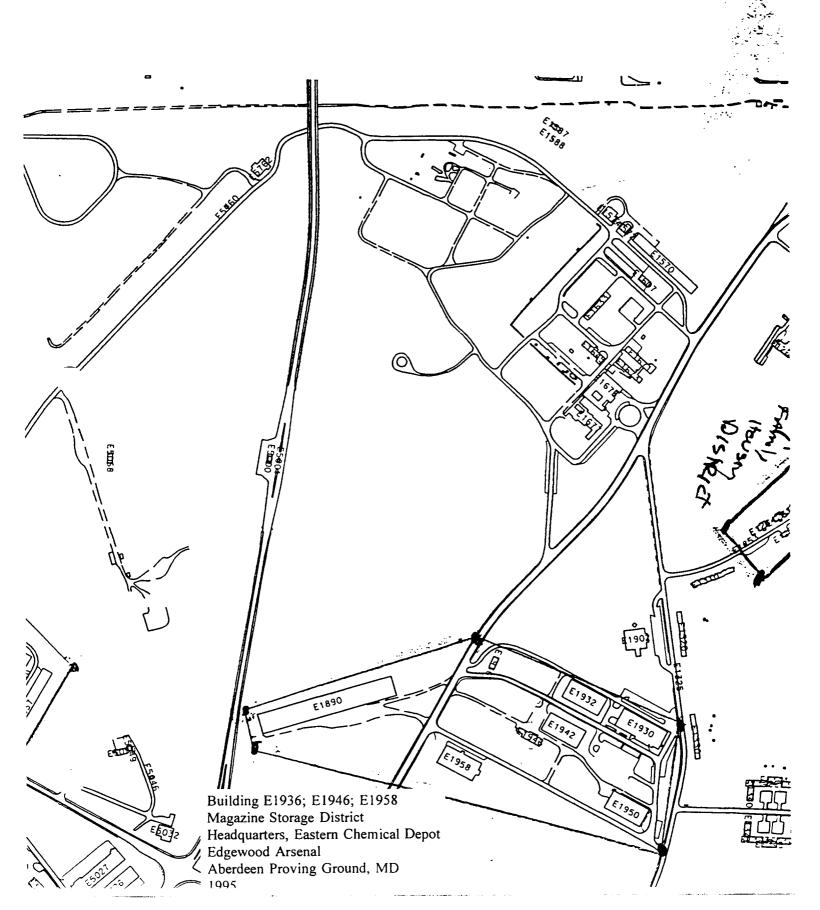
The Walls 
20 × 3 × 3 bizet Middle 29 U. Frame

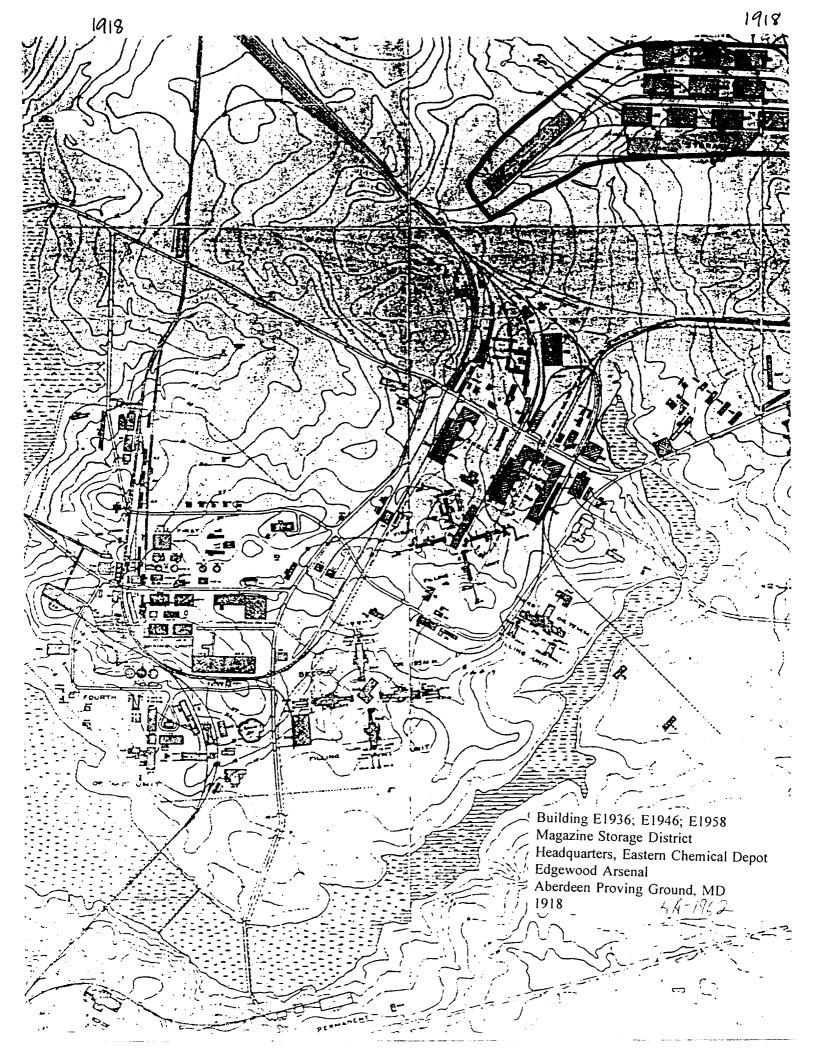
20 × 3 × 3 bizet Middle 29 U. Frame

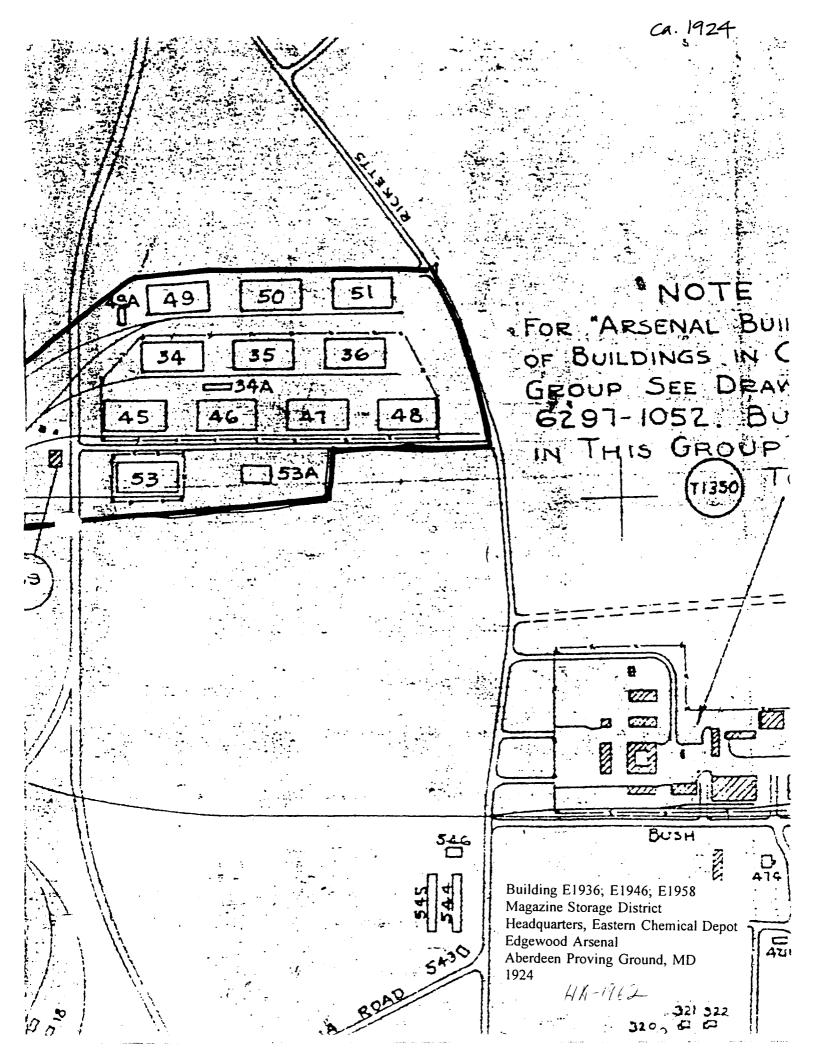
HALF SIDE ELEVATION - "

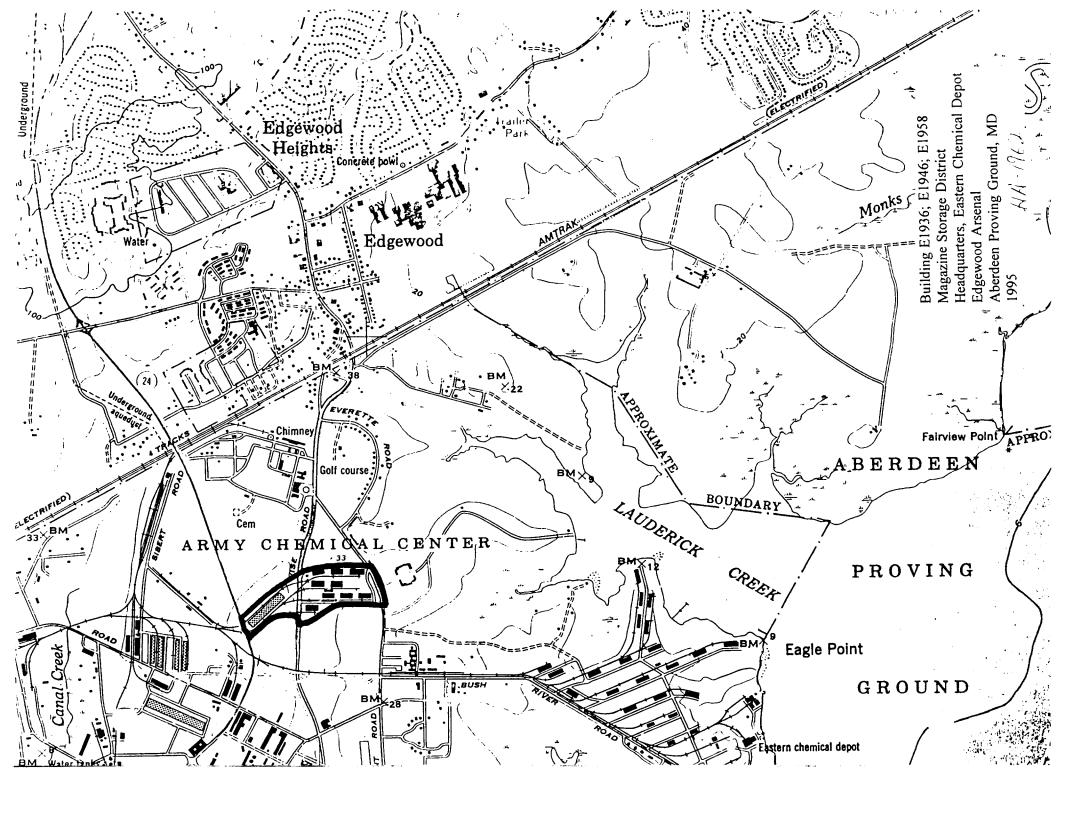
Building Plans for Magazine Storage District (1918)
Headquarters, Eastern Chemical Depot
Edgewood Arsenal
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

Veale ?

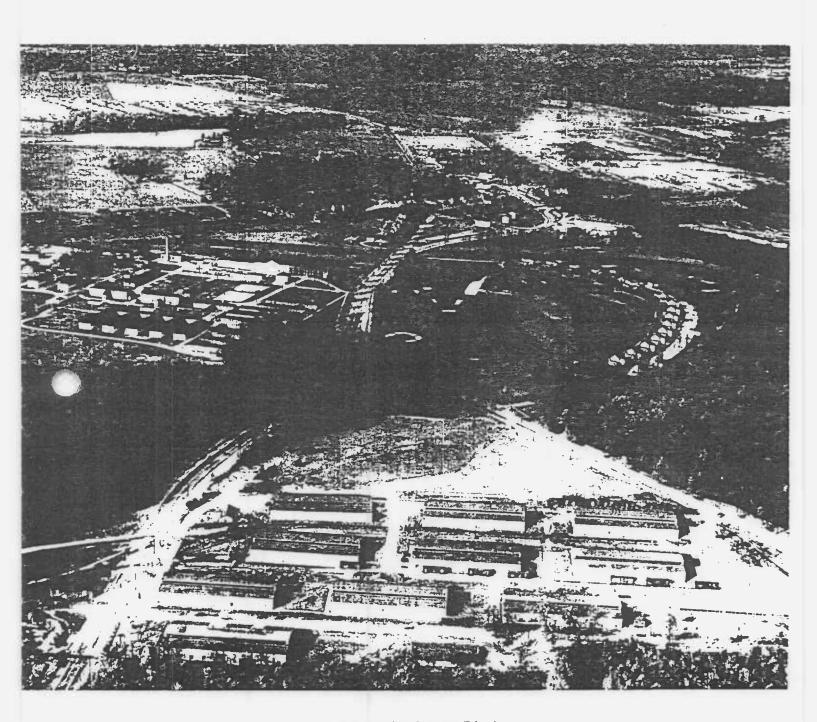








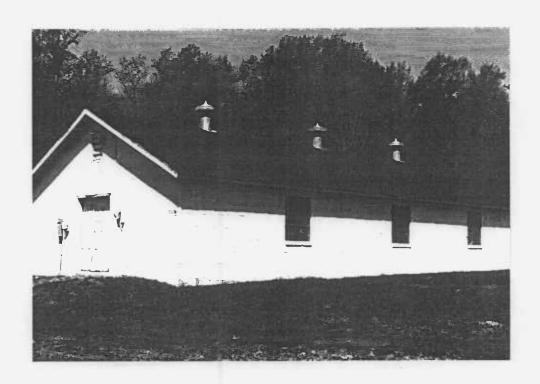
MHT Inventory Form Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD Robinson & Associates, Inc.



1918 Magazine Storage District Headquarters, Eastern Chemical Depot Edgewood Arsenal Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD c. 1930

HA-1962

MHT Inventory Form Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD Robinson & Associates, Inc.

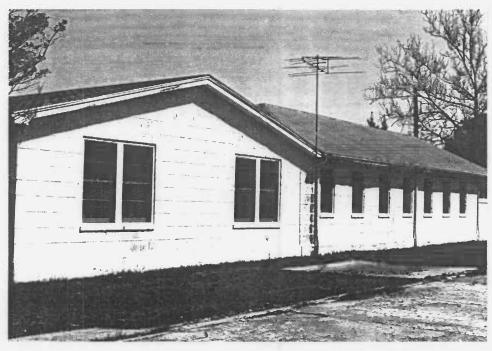


Building E1936
Flammable Materials Storehouse (1918)
Edgewood Arsenal
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
1995

MHT Inventory Form Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD Robinson & Associates, Inc.



Building E1946, Front facade

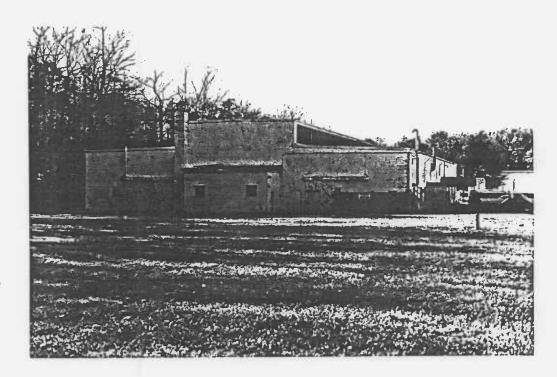


Building E1946, Rear view

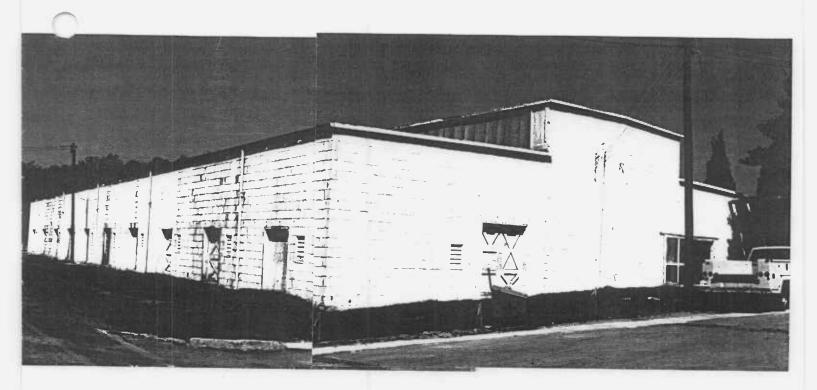
Building E1946 Administration Building (1924) Edgewood Arsenal Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD April 1995

HA-1962

MHT Inventory Form Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD Robinson & Associates, Inc.



Building E1958 Ordnance Warehouse (1918) Edgewood Arsenal Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 1995



Building E1932 Ordnance Warehouse (1918) Edgewood Arsenal Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 1995